

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01

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R 221750Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1571

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION UN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ME, UNRWA, CA

SUBJECT: CANADA AND UNRWA FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

REF: STATE 139487

1. IN COORDINATION WITH AND FOLLOWING REQUEST BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR AT EXTAFF ON AUGUST 17 THAT CANADA MAKE ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CASH CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA, EMBASSY COUNSELOR MADE SIMILAR REQUEST ON AUGUST 21 TO ACTING DIRECTOR MIDDLE EASTERN OFFICE AT EXTAFF (BOEHM).

2. BOEHM STATED THAT CANADA WOULD PROBABLY MAKE AN ADDITIONAL CASH CONTRIBUTION EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT THEY CALCULATE THAT THE REAL PURCHASING POWER OF THEIR REGULAR CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN DIMINISHED BY INFLATION AND CHANGING CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES.

3. IN MANKING A CONTRIBUTION, HOWEVER, BOEHM SAID GOC IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT ALL OF UNRWA'S FINANCIAL WOES CAN BE ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO CURRENCY EXCHANGE PROBLEMS AND INFLATION AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT UNRWA'S FISCAL MANAGEMENT. HE DID NOT INFORM THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR OF CANADA'S RESERVATIONS ABOUT ADMINISTRATION
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OF UNRWA'S FINANCES, NOR THAT THE CANADIAN MISSION AT

THE UN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH
THE US, BRITISH AND JAPANESE MISSIONS. CANADA WOULD LIKE
TO HAVE AN EXAMINATION BEFORE THE NEXT PLEDGING CONFERENCE
TAKES PLACE IN NOVEMBER OF THE REASONS WHY UNRWA SEEMS
CONSTANTLY TO BE IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY. IN PART,
THEY SUSPECT THAT THIS CHRONIC FISCAL PROBLEM MAY BE
DUE TO EITHER A FAILURE BY UNRWA TO BUDGET ENOUGH OR
POOR MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS IT RECEIVES, OR A COMBINATION
OF BOTH. HE SAID CANADA UNDERSTANDS THAT ITS CONCERN AND
RESERVATIONS ABOUT UNRWA'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ARE SHARED
BY OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OTTAWA01992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS JOHNSON
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730822/aaaaaqfw.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 139487
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <13-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADA AND UNRWA FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PFOR, CA, UNRWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005